

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00922 160840Z

70

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AF-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /158 W

----- 065655

R 151432Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1534

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 922

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IS

SUBJ: FORMATION OF NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT: STATUS REPORT

REF: TEL AVIV 878

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. WE ARE TOLD THAT LABOR ALIGNMENT, SINCE BREAKOFF OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY IN WEE HOURS OF FEB 14, HAS BEEN IN TURMOIL, WITH CONTINUOUS INFORMAL LEADERSHIP DISCUSSIONS. PRESS IN RIFE WITH SPECULATION ABOUT (A) POSSIBLE ALIGNMENT OFFER OF CONCESSION TO NRP, SUCH AS POSTPONING ANY GOI EFFORT TO REACH FINAL PEACE WITH JORDAN (BECAUSE OF NRP INTRANSIGENCE OF GIVING UP WEST BANK), AND (B) POSSIBLE ROTATION OF PORTFOLIOS WITHIN NEW CABINET, INTER ALIA AND DAYAN TAKING OVER FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ANTICIPATION OF CRITICISM IN AGRANAT INVESTIGATING COMMISSION'S REPORT OF DAYAN'S HANDLING OF DEFENSE MATTERS.

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2. MRS MEIR IS DESCRIBED AS REMAINING ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO (A) FORMATION OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT WITH LIKUD, (B) RETURN TO POLLS, (C) RULING WITH ONLY 61 KNESSET VOTES, AND (D) MAKING CONCESSIONS TO NRP IN ORDER TO RECONSTITUTE PRESENT COALITION. BUT WE ALSO UNDERSTAND SM DOES NOT WANT TO ASK PRESIDENT KATZIR TO RENEW HER 21-DAY MANDATE WHEN HER PRESENT ONE EXPIRES FEB 20. IF SO, SHE WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OF FOUR OPTIONS ENUMERATED ABOVE---OR TURN OVER TASK OF HEADING NEW ALIGNMENT-LED GOVERNMENT TO SOMEONE ELSE AND RETIRE, WHICH WE DOUBT SHE REALLY WANTS TO DO.

3. NOT ONLY DO WE FIND NO BASIS FOR GUESSING WHICH WAY MRS MEIR WILL JUMP; BUT IT DOES NOT EVEN APPEAR SAFE TO PREDICT THAT PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED BY FEB 20.
KEATING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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